

Preserving Our Slovak Roots in the 21st Century

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Summary: Ever wonder why certain traditions have remained in your family through the years? Do you still celebrate the *Vilia* supper at Christmas or make *paska* and *hrudka* (or *syrek*) at Easter? Each of us has a story to tell, a rich past to explore and the Slovak culture is deeply embedded in tradition and customs. This session will provide an overview of some of the most important Slovak customs and traditions. Traditions associated with holidays such as Christmas and Easter will be presented, as well as special customs honored for the major events in life: birth, marriage and death, along with suggestions for preserving customs and traditions in the 21st century.

Preserving Our Slovak Heritage in the 21st Century

- Overview of Slovak Traditions
 - Recipes
 - Religious and Social Customs
- Identifying Group and Community Celebrations
- Slovak Festivals and Other Events

Identifying Slovak Communities in the United States

- How to Locate “Cluster” Communities
- U.S. Maps
- U.S. Census Records
- Immigration Data
- Local Newspapers
- Analyzing, Interpreting and Organizing Your Data

Utilizing National Slovak Groups/Societies

- National Organizations
- Finding a Local Chapter
- Slovak (Eastern European) Conferences and Local Meetings
- Other Slovak Web Sites
- Colleges and Universities with Slavic Languages Departments

Contacting Historical Societies, Museums, & Fraternal Organizations

- Internet Research
 - FamilySearch Wiki
 - Cyndi’s List
 - Google
 - Blogs
 - Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google+, YouTube)
- Traditional Research (society lists and publications)
- Newsletters and Other Forms of Communication

Slovak Churches: Rich Repositories of Information

- Web or Telephone Directory Searches
- Contacting the Parish Priest
- Visit the Parish Cemetery
- Attend Church Functions
- Viewing Church Records

Finding Slovak Cousins

- Networking Protocols
- Web and Directory Searches
- Newspaper/Journal/Magazine and Other Publication Advertisements
- Message Boards
- Social Media
- Classes

Village-Based Associations

- Should You Form One?
- Who's in Charge?
- Funding issues
- Identifying a Core Group of Individuals
- Consolidating Research Projects
- Fundraising and Other Projects
- Sharing the Work
- Expanding the Circle to the Ancestral Village
- Making Contact with Relatives and Others in Slovakia
- Planning a Gathering or Reunion

Publishing and Sharing Your Information with Others

- **Options for Publishing and Sharing Information**
 - Traditional Print Forms (newsletters, booklets, etc.)
 - Electronic Publishing (e-books, electronic newsletters, videos)
- E-mail Lists
- Web Sites
 - Public Web Site
 - Private Facebook groups
- Revising and Updating Information
- Recruiting "New Blood"
- Keeping the Momentum Going

**Ask yourself:
What Can I Do to Preserve My Slovak Heritage?**

Websites for Slovak Research

Cisarik.com <http://www.cisarik.com>

Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences (SVU) <http://www.svu2000.org>

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) <http://www.cgisi>

FamilySearch Wiki Slovakia <https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Slovakia>

Hungary Exchange <http://www.hungaryexchange.com>

It's All Relative <http://www.iarelated.com>

Our Slovakia <http://www.our-Slovakia.com>

Radix (Hungary Research) <http://www.bogardi.com/gen/index.shtml>

RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees: Czechs and Slovaks
<http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson27.htm#Czechs>

RootsWeb Message Boards <http://boards.rootsweb.com>

Slovakia Genealogy Research Strategies <http://www.iabsi.com/gen/public>

Slovak Pride Database <http://slovakpride.homestead.com>

Miscellaneous Websites

Balch Institute (Historical Society of Pennsylvania) <http://www.hsp.org>

Carpatho-Rusyn Society <http://www.carpathorusynsociety.org>

Cyndi's List Czech Republic & Slovakia <http://www.cyndislist.com/czech>

Cyndi's List: Eastern Europe. <http://www.cyndislist.com/eastern-europe>

East European Genealogical Society <http://www.eegsociety.org/Home.aspx>

Evidence Explained <http://www.evidenceexplained.com>

Family Search Letter Writing Guide

<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/b/bf/LWGCzechSlo.pdf>

Find A Grave <http://www.findagrave.com>

Foundation of East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS)
<http://www.feefhs.org>

Fuzzy Gazetteer <http://isodp.hof-university.de/fuzzyg/query>

GenealogyLinks.net <http://www.genealogylinks.net/europe/index.html>

Google Earth <http://earth.google.com>

Google Translate <http://translate.google.com>

Immigrant History Research Center (Univ. of Minnesota) <http://www.ihrc.umn.edu>

Jewishgen.org <http://www.jewishgen.org>

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library <http://www.ncsml.org>

Slovak Archives <http://www.civil.gov.sk/archiv/snarchiv/uk.htm>

Slovak Institute <http://www.slovakinstitute.com>

Surname Navigator site <http://www.geneaservice.nl/navigator>

WorldGenWeb <http://www.worldgenweb.org>

Professional Researchers (check credentials)

Association of Professional Genealogists in America <http://www.apgen.org>

Board for Certification of Genealogists <http://www.bcgcertification.org>

Cyndi's List <http://www.CyndisList.com/profess.htm>

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
<http://www.cgsi.org/base/research.htm>

Forums and Social Media Sites

Geneabloggers <http://www.geneabloggers.com>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com>

GenealogyWise <http://www.genealogywise.com>

Google Plus <http://plus.google.com>

Pinterest <http://www.pinterest.com>

Twitter <http://www.twitter.com>

RootsWeb <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com>

Genealogy.com <http://www.genealogy.com>

Delphi Forums <http://forums.delphiforums.com>

Articles, Books, and Courses

"Center of Attention" by Lisa A. Alzo, *Family Tree Magazine*, August 2005.

Tracing Eastern European Ancestors, *Internet Genealogy* Special issue
<http://www.internet-genealogy.com>

Nase rodina (newsletter of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International); Order back issues: <http://www.cgsi.org/publications/article-index>

Three Slovak Women, Second Edition by Lisa A. Alzo, CreateSpace Publishing, 2014.

Baba's Kitchen: Slovak & Rusyn Family Recipes & Traditions, Second Edition by Lisa A. Alzo (Lulu.com).

Finding Your Slovak Ancestors by Lisa A. Alzo. Toronto: Heritage Productions <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com>

Legacy Family Tree Quick Guides: Slovak Genealogy
<http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=71>

Course: *Discovering Your Czech & Slovak Roots* at Family Tree University
<http://www.familytreeuniversity.com>

Course: *Finding Your Slovak Ancestors*, National Institute for Genealogical Studies, <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com>